

Department of Community and Human Services



2004 Annual Report



King County

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Cover photo: Toddlers play with bubbles as they learn and grow in a child development class sponsored by the Developmental Disabilities Division.

Helping to build healthier communities. Clockwise: Programs and partners are coming together as never before to create housing and support for the homeless (photo courtesy of Real Change); supported employment opportunities help people with developmental disabilities live and work in their communities; Community Organizing Program supports neighborhood efforts to fight crime and drug abuse; building affordable housing and livable communities across King County; Work Training Program youth give back through community service.



Message from the County Executive

I am pleased to present the 2004 Annual Report of the King County Department of Community and Human Services.

Providing services and supports that strengthen our communities and help at-risk youth and adults achieve and maintain healthier and more independent lives is the role and mission of this department. As King County Executive, I am especially proud of the achievements we have made to improve the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents, including:

- Innovative and effective programs that help at-risk youth get their lives back on track, complete their education and build job skills for the future
- Vocational services that prepare dislocated workers for new industries and new careers
- Supported employment opportunities that provide income and independence for people with developmental disabilities
- Treatment services that offer alternatives to incarceration and connect people to the help they need to return safely and successfully to their communities
- Affordable and special needs housing built or renovated for low-income residents and people with disabilities.

We have significant challenges ahead of us in the coming year, particularly as we begin work to build a stronger financial footing for our regional human service system, and kick off our efforts to implement our community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. I am confident in the ability of the Department of Community and Human Services and their many partners to rise to those challenges. I commend them, and the entire human service community, for their dedication and commitment to serving those most in need.

Sincerely,

Ron Sims
King County Executive



Department of Community and Human Services Mission

To enhance the quality of life, protect rights, and promote the self-sufficiency of our region's diverse individuals, families, and communities.



Making a difference. Clockwise:

Early intervention programs help both mind and body grow.

The Housing Repair Program helps low-income citizens, including seniors and people with disabilities with much-needed repairs to be safer and more comfortable in their homes.

Compass Veterans Center opens, providing 25 units of transitional housing, job training, case management and recovery support for homeless veterans.

Youth and Family Services agencies provide a range of services to help youth succeed in home and at school.

One Night Count coordinators tally the number of homeless people on the streets in King County. Hundreds of volunteers, including 22 from DCHS, conducted the early morning count last October. Pictured here are Dan Wise, Kate Speltz and Tara Conner (photo courtesy of Leslie Shapiro).



King County
Department of
Community and Human Services

Letter from the Director

2004 brought both challenges and opportunities for the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS). Strong partnerships between our staff and our provider agencies, combined with the volunteer efforts of dedicated citizens serving on key advisory committees provided the creativity and commitment to help the county take important steps forward in strengthening our human service systems for the future

The year began with the convening of the Task Force on Regional Human Services, a group of 17 county residents representing a broad range of perspectives, who came together at the request of King County Executive Ron Sims to conduct an examination of our current human service programs, administration, and funding structures. Their final report, released last August, called for the creation of a new regional governing body; a new, stable funding source; and a strong countywide public education campaign on the value of human services. A small planning group will begin in spring 2005, as recommended by the Task Force, to begin implementation steps toward long-term stability for our region's critical safety net.

Homelessness was much in the news in 2004, following the establishment of a Tent City in east King County. The summer months were devoted to providing information for public meetings, and also helping to staff a citizen advisory group formed to study the issue of emergency encampments. The Citizens Advisory Commission on Homeless Encampments offered their findings and recommendations on siting policies and permit procedures that were forwarded to the King County Council for consideration.

Taking place at the same time were the diligent efforts of a small group of people working to develop a broad-based plan for addressing homelessness countywide. Representatives from King County, the City of Seattle, United Way, the faith community, local business, human service providers and advocates, and homeless individuals came together as never before to draft a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. DCHS is pleased that it was chosen by the committee to serve as the host for the implementation of that plan through the Committee to End Homelessness, beginning spring 2005.

The effort to establish the political and community will to end homelessness, along with the needed prevention programs, supportive services and affordable housing will provide much of the focus for DCHS over the next several years. In fact, addressing homelessness is one of three priority areas for DCHS in 2005, along with building employment opportunities for low-income people and those with special needs, and continuing our efforts to create alternatives to incarceration for youth and adults. We look to our provider agencies, our seven advisory boards, and our many community stakeholders to help us as we move forward in these efforts.

I am proud to share with you this *2004 Annual Report*, celebrating the accomplishments achieved by the dedicated staff of the Department of Community and Human Services and our partners. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jackie MacLean".

Jackie MacLean



Department of Community and Human Services - Introduction

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), either directly or through agency contracts, provides a broad array of services to the residents of King County: affordable and special needs housing, community improvement projects, crisis response, mental health and substance abuse treatment, legal counsel for low-income people, education and work training programs for at-risk youth, vocational and job placement services for adults and dislocated workers, early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays, employment and family support services for people with developmental disabilities, emergency shelter and legal aid to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, homeless services, home repair assistance for seniors and low-income or disabled people, veterans services, and violence and substance abuse community prevention programs. Our goal is to provide services that meet the individual needs of each client, create opportunities for achieving independent and productive lives, and improve and strengthen public safety and the livability of our communities.

Administration

King County is dedicated to sustaining the foundation and coordination of the regional human service system. The county shares this responsibility with many partners: local, state and federal governments; United Way and other foundations; public and private agencies; faith communities; schools; businesses and employers; and many others.

DCHS is responsible for strategic planning, policy implementation, fiscal management, contract oversight, and the provision of care for the majority of King County's housing and human service programs. DCHS is the second largest human service agency in Washington, with a budget of over \$223 million and a staff of over 400.

The department houses the Regional Support Network, which is responsible for managing the state-funded public mental health system; coordinates a range of state-funded, locally provided chemical abuse and dependency services; and also manages a significant portion of the state's employment funding for county residents with developmental disabilities and their families.

DCHS also manages the county's public defense system, ensuring that low-income residents have access to their constitutionally protected right to a legal defense, regardless of their ability to pay for such services. The Office of the Public Defender is one of the largest public defense agencies in the nation.

Employment is a critical component to a meaningful and independent life. Developmental Disabilities Division supports a range of employment programs, including this recycling project in Issaquah.

In addition to its responsibilities as a regional government, the county also serves as the local government for the 350,000 residents in its unincorporated areas. DCHS serves an important role in that effort, providing professional staff support to the six recognized unincorporated area councils, and offering an important link between those communities and county government.

Finance

The DCHS 2004 budget totals over \$223 million, with funding from the federal government, the state of Washington, King County (multiple funds), local cities, and public/private foundations. In 2004, the county devoted \$22.8 million of its resources to support human services through DCHS. The county's dollars often serve as matching funds to obtain state or federal dollars. In fact, for every dollar that DCHS devoted to human services in 2004, the department was able to obtain an additional \$7.26 from external sources.

The following chart shows the county's multiple funding sources supporting human services.

2004 Adopted Budget – Funding Sources	Current Expense/ Children & Family SetAside	Criminal Justice	Dedicated Property Tax	State/Federal/ Grant/Other Resources *	2004 Total Revenues
Community Services Division	\$11,010,252	\$758,100	\$2,089,737	\$40,484,815	\$54,343,904
Community Services	\$8,400,112	\$758,100			\$ 9,158,212
Housing Opportunity Fund	\$1,000,000			\$3,828,261	\$4,828,261
Fed Housing/Community Dev				\$20,226,461	\$20,226,461
Work Training Program	\$1,610,140			\$ 5,798,473	\$7,408,613
Dislocated Worker Program				\$10,631,620	\$10,631,620
Veterans' Program			\$2,089,737		\$2,089,737
Developmental Disabilities			\$1,935,582	\$15,659,637	\$17,595,219
Mental Health/Substance Abuse	\$3,980,007	\$375,990	\$2,171,159	\$106,552,299	\$113,079,455
Mental Health	\$1,203,046	\$245,990	\$2,171,159	\$91,079,899	\$94,700,094
Alcohol/Chemical Abuse	\$2,776,961	\$130,000		\$15,472,400	\$18,379,361
DCHS Administration	\$472,921			\$876,496	\$1,349,417
Human Services Sub-Total	\$15,463,180	\$1,134,090	\$6,196,478	\$163,573,247	\$186,366,995
Office of the Public Defender	\$30,004,038	\$24,045		\$7,496,679	\$37,524,762
DCHS TOTAL	\$45,467,218	\$1,158,135	\$6,196,478	\$171,069,926	\$223,891,757

*Other sources of funding direct to King County such as fees, fund balance, property tax millage, contributions from other funds, interest income.

Regional Efforts

Tent cities helped to bring the debate regarding homelessness to prominence and to illustrate the need across King County for long-term housing and supportive services to help break the cycle of homelessness. Pictured here, Tent City 4 in unincorporated King County (photo courtesy of David Baum).



Task Force on Regional Human Services

In 2003 King County Executive Ron Sims created a new dedicated funding source for human services when he designated new solid waste revenues, about \$7 million annually, to support county health and human service programs. It was an important first step in creating more stability for the fragile human service system.

Executive Sims took the next step in February 2004 when he convened a Task Force on Regional Human Services to conduct a thorough examination of the current human service system and suggest practical and strategic steps for improving and maintaining human services for the future. Led by co-chairs Bruce Brooks, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle and Toshi Moriguchi, Uwajimaya, Inc., the group met for over seven months to study the current systems of services, funding mechanisms and organizational structures.

Their report, *Stand Together: A Blueprint for Transforming Human Services in King County* released in August, focused on three key recommendations:

- ▶ Communicate need – There is a lack of public understanding and appreciation for human services and the ways that they benefit the community. Better public education is needed.
- ▶ Build a system – A truly regional infrastructure is needed to create greater efficiencies and effectiveness, long-range planning and accountability.
- ▶ Develop dedicated resources – The current system is inadequately financed to meet the basic needs in the community. A dedicated funding source is needed to create stability to meet current and future needs.

The 2005 budget allocated funding to staff implementation planning to further those recommendations.

Citizens Advisory Commission on Homeless Encampments

In the aftermath of a strong community response—both for and against the establishment of a tent city in east King County—the Metropolitan King County Council created a Citizens' Advisory Commission on Homeless Encampments (CACHE) last June, charged with exploring the need for homeless encampments and developing recommendations to guide county policy regarding the siting of tent cities. The 22 voting and advisory members of the CACHE held five business and two evening public meetings during the summer. DCHS provided staff support to their efforts.

In their final report issued in August 2004, the CACHE found a need for homeless encampments and approved the use of public or private lands, but only as a short-term answer to the immediate crisis of people living on the streets. The report offered recommendations on site selection criteria, public notification processes, and permitting procedures for tent cities to be located on county-owned land or land in unincorporated areas. They also called for a coordinated and countywide effort to create the housing and supportive services needed to achieve a meaningful and successful response to homelessness.

Subsequent to the commission's final report, and with the assistance of representatives from the suburban cities and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), a set of policies and procedures guiding the future siting criteria and a revised county permit process were forwarded to the council in the fall.

Community Services Division



Greenbrier Heights in Woodinville, created from county surplus property, offers 170 units of mixed-income housing, a small park, walking trails, community center, and 11 acres of preserved wetlands. The project received both regional and national recognition for its innovative design and concept.

The Community Services Division provides a wide range of services that improve the lives of vulnerable children and at-risk youth, the elderly, the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, survivors of abuse, veterans, low-income individuals and neighborhoods, and people needing education and job training to be more employable for the future.

Aging Program agencies helped 18,308 older adults in 2004. Local providers helped low-income people 55 years or older to achieve and maintain their health with services like adult day health, telephone referral and information and other supports.

Community Organizing Program staff worked with 56 neighborhoods and awarded \$21,310 in mini-grants to mobilize substance abuse and violence prevention programs across King County. A total of over 8,971 county residents participated in sponsored events and activities.

- ▶ **King County Meth Action Team**, formed to fight the problem of methamphetamine production and use in King County, is co-convened by the Community Organizing Program and the King County Sheriff's Office. Since the Team formed in 2001, there has been a 62% reported reduction in meth labs.

Housing and Community Development – King County works closely with local developers, financial institutions, housing authorities, the City of Seattle and the Suburban Cities, community groups, nonprofits and the faith community to build or preserve safe, affordable and special needs housing and improve the livability of low-income or depressed neighborhoods.

- ▶ Housing Finance Program funded the creation of 538 units of affordable or special needs housing in 2004. Among the projects completed in 2004 were the acquisition and renovation of the JC Penny Building in Auburn into affordable apartments, and the acquisition and renovation of Plum Court in Kirkland into affordable family housing. The Housing Finance Program uses federal HOME program funds, the new Regional Affordable Housing Program funds, and the County's Housing Opportunity Funds, among other fund sources. In particular:
- ▶ Regional Affordable Housing Program dollars contributed to the funding of 330 of the 538 units. This new program is funded by a new document recording fee surcharge to support the development of regional affordable housing projects.
- ▶ Housing Opportunity Funds contributed to the funding of 280 of the 538 units. HOF-funded projects completed in 2004 include the Willows, a transitional housing project for women with children in White Center, and Avondale Park, a transitional housing project for families and individuals in Redmond. The HOF, funded with county current expense funds, focuses on the funding of special needs housing for priority populations.

- ▶ Housing Repair Program assisted 201 households with much needed repairs or disability accommodations during 2004. The program provides low or no-interest loans for low-moderate income families and people with special needs.
- ▶ Homeless assistance and prevention programs helped 224 households.
- ▶ Emergency shelter or transitional housing assisted 1,415 households.
- ▶ 481 permanent supportive housing units for homeless people with disabilities were provided through Shelter Plus Care federal grants.
- ▶ Community Development Block Grant funds helped complete 32 capital projects important to the various communities in the County, including the expansion of the Hopelink Sno-Valley Community Center and the new Kent Family Center.

Veterans' Program assisted 3,024 low-income veterans and their families during 2004. The King County Veterans' Program helps with financial aid, mental health and trauma counseling, short- and long-term housing, vocational and employment assistance, and other supports.

- ▶ **Veterans Incarcerated Project (VIP)** is one of the few jail projects of its kind and a national model for service. The VIP has a recidivism rate of less than 20%, compared to the state average of about 60%. In 2004, the project enrolled and served 166 vets, providing stable housing, treatment and other supports upon discharge from jail.

Women's Program helped 6,655 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault connect to crisis intervention and referral assistance, counseling, legal advocacy, emergency shelter and transitional housing. King County has one of the most comprehensive domestic violence delivery systems in the state, made possible by excellent partnerships and collaborative relationships with our surrounding cities. King County is especially committed to providing culturally specific services, including refugees and immigrants, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Spanish-speaking people, sexual minorities, African Americans, and women who are deaf.

Youth and Family Service Program - Community agencies work to help juvenile justice involved youth, and those at highest risk of involvement, reconnect to school and family and move toward healthier lives and futures. These agencies served 20,216 youth and their families in 2004. Services include individual and family counseling, case management, gang intervention, drug prevention, parenting classes, drug and alcohol treatment and support groups, employment and education programs. The network also supports five youth shelters that provided 13,629 bed nights of shelter in 2004.



Graduation Day! Work Training Program GED graduate and his proud mother celebrate his achievement.

Work Training Programs for At-Risk Youth – Through partnerships with community agencies, schools, businesses, cities and many others, the Work Training Program provides education and training services to help at-risk youth get their lives back on track and prepare for successful careers and healthier futures. They have been particularly successful in helping justice-involved youth.

- ▶ **YouthSource worked with 874 youth in 2004**, offering a variety of services and supports. YouthSource is the first and largest comprehensive youth “one-stop” employment and education program in the state in programs like YouthBuild, Digital Bridge Academy, and Opportunity Skyway that combine classroom assistance toward high school credit retrieval or completion of a GED program, with employment training focused on construction, computer technology or aviation.
- ▶ **New Start in White Center serves about 220 youth** each year in a community intervention program working with juvenile justice and gang-related youth.
- ▶ **Out of School Youth Consortium helps over 500 teens** who have dropped out of high school, seeking to re-engage them in education and career building programs.

Dislocated Worker Program provided employment training and counseling to over 3,000 dislocated workers during 2004. The Dislocated Worker Program is a comprehensive re-employment program for adults who have lost their jobs through plant closures or downsizing. The program has an 86% job placement rate, and received the Governor’s Award for Workforce Best Practices for its response to addressing job losses following the 9/11 disaster.

WorkSource Renton reported 88,765 customer visits in 2004! WorkSource Renton is the premier and largest “one-stop” employment center in Washington State, recognized for initiating innovative and best practice employment services for Seattle-King County. It offers career counselors and job developers, a computer center, and a variety of other services for both employers and prospective employees.



Work Source Renton received the “One-Stop of the Year Award” from the International Association of Workforce Professionals for exceptional services, particularly for those with developmental disabilities.

Unincorporated Area Councils



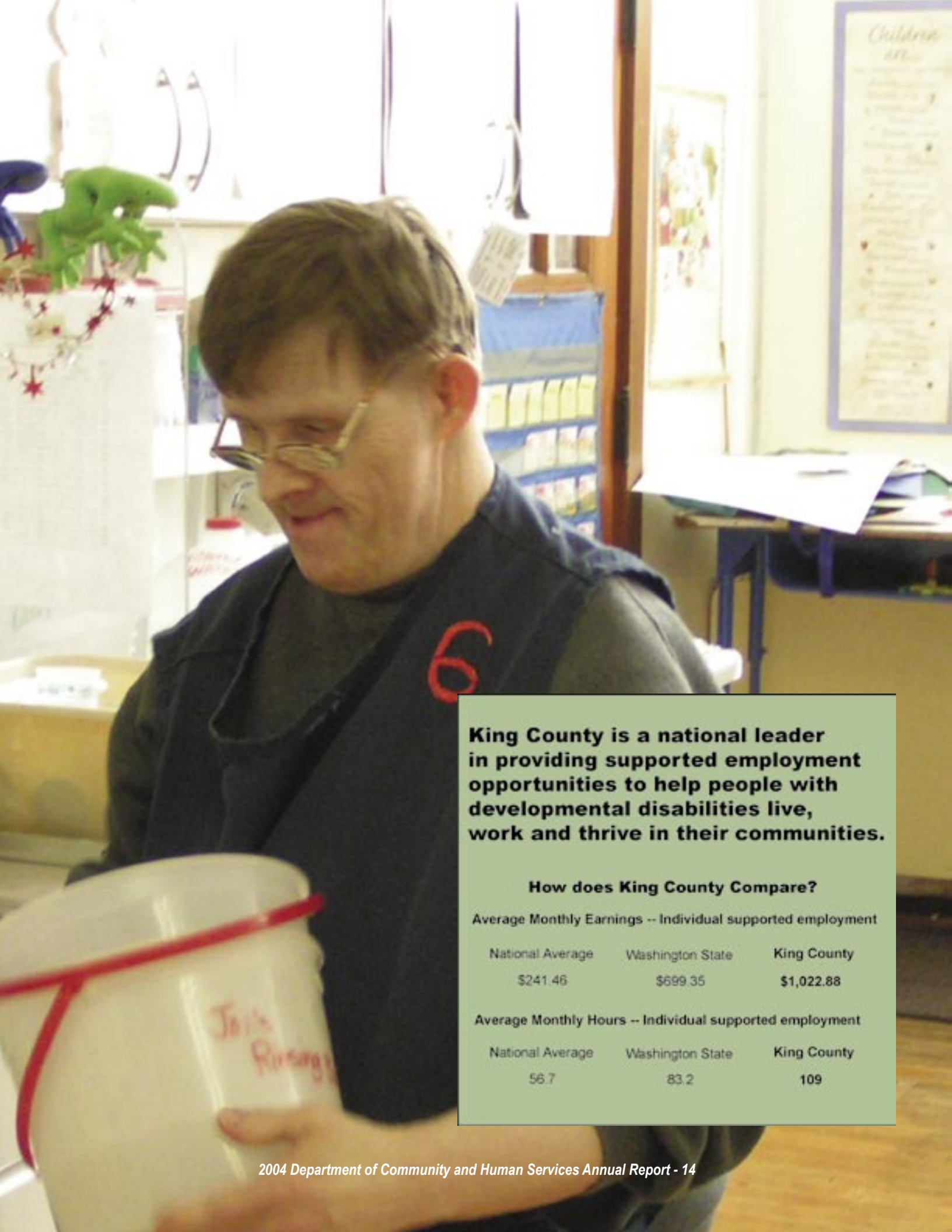
The 2004 Executive Joint Annual UAC Forum was co-hosted by the West Hill Community Council and brought together over 150 residents. From left: Judy Duff, North Highline UAC; Richard Bonewits, Greater Maple Valley Area Council; Edie Jorgensen, Four Creeks UAC; Executive Sims; Kathleen Royer, West Hill Community Council; Geoff Clayton, Upper Bear Creek Community Council; Jim English, Vashon-Maury Island Community Council.

The role and function of Unincorporated Area Councils (UACs) were established by county ordinance in 1995 to improve communication between county government and the residents of the geographic areas not incorporated within any city boundary. For these areas, King County serves as the local government. The role of the Community Service Representative, housed in DCHS, was created to serve as a liaison between county government and the six recognized UACs:

- ▶ Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council
- ▶ Greater Maple Valley Area Council
- ▶ North Highline Unincorporated Area Council
- ▶ Upper Bear Creek Community Council
- ▶ Vashon-Maury Island Community Council
- ▶ West Hill Community Council

The liaisons attend community meetings, arrange briefings from county staff and provide other support and assistance as needed. In 2004, DCHS Director Jackie MacLean attended meetings of each of the UACs to learn more about the human services needs of those communities and also to provide information on the programs and services available in each of the geographic areas.

King County Executive Ron Sims hosted his annual joint meeting and community forum last November to bring together the leadership of all six UACs and the residents of the county's unincorporated areas to discuss issues of interest and concern. The annual forum is one of many ways the county works to gather and share information with residents of these communities. For the first time, the forum was broadcast on the County's cable station.



King County is a national leader in providing supported employment opportunities to help people with developmental disabilities live, work and thrive in their communities.

How does King County Compare?

Average Monthly Earnings -- Individual supported employment

National Average	Washington State	King County
\$241.46	\$699.35	\$1,022.88

Average Monthly Hours -- Individual supported employment

National Average	Washington State	King County
56.7	83.2	109

Developmental Disabilities

The Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) oversees programs and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families through contracts with service agencies providing early intervention services for infants and toddlers, parent coalition and parent training, employment, community access, social and recreation activities, self-advocacy, housing, and other community support programs.

Birth to Three Early Intervention Services: DDD contracts with agencies across the county to provide special instruction, family resource coordination, and a variety of therapy services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Developmental delay refers to a child with skills and abilities developing more slowly than the norm for their age, and can mean that a child has or will have a developmental disability but can also be temporary in nature. For the second year in a row, DDD increased enrollment in these programs, serving 1,425 children in 2004.

Family Support and Advocacy: DDD works with many partners to provide ongoing training and family resource coordination for parents of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Social and recreational opportunities, self-advocacy and other community support programs served over 500 individuals in 2004. As in previous years, the Parent Coalition and the Board for Developmental Disabilities sponsored a legislative forum that drew more than 30 legislators and over 500 members of the community to discuss funding and service access issues and concerns.

Supported Employment: King County is proud to be a national leader in creating supported employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, thanks to a strong network of dedicated community

employers across the county. In 2004, King County assisted 778 people to achieve and maintain individual supported employment, and another 502 people in prevocational training, group supported employment, and community access programs.

Housing: The year saw the completion of the first of the new housing units specially designed for people with developmental disabilities and integrated into affordable, multifamily housing that are planned and supported with developmental disabilities funding from the county's Housing Opportunity Fund. Plum Court in Kirkland opened in 2004 with four units designed to meet the needs of 12 people with developmental disabilities. The division also helped 47 people with developmental disabilities access affordable housing through Section 8 vouchers.



Early intervention programs help families better meet the needs of their child with a developmental delay and often reduces the future need for services and supports.

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services

The Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD) is responsible for managing both the state-funded mental health service system as well as the publicly funded alcohol and drug treatment system. The majority of treatment services are provided through contracts with community-based mental health centers and/or substance abuse treatment agencies. Direct services to county residents provided by MHCADSD staff includes assessments and eligibility screening for publicly funded substance abuse services, 24-hour mental health crisis outreach and investigation for involuntary detainment or hospitalization, mental health client services, public inebriate outreach and triage, and investigation for involuntary detention under state chemical abuse statutes.

Mental health services are provided by community-based mental health agencies under contract with MHCADSD. Services include individual, group and family therapy; case management; crisis intervention; vocational and employment services; medication management; and help with housing and other supports.

- ▶ Mental health services were provided to a total of 36,243 people, a 9% increase since 2002 including 10,677 children; 21,119 adults; and 4,447 older adults.
- ▶ Crisis outreach and involuntary commitment services are provided by County Designated Mental Health Professionals (CDMHPs) any time of the day or night 365 days of the year. CDMHPs conducted 5,329 face-



2004 Exemplary Service Award honorees. From left: Systems Integration-Ann McGettigan, Seattle Counseling Service; Advocacy-Darcel Slovek, Transitional Resources and Beth Hammonds and David Johnson, Highline-West Seattle Mental Health Center; Service Innovation-Jessica Benet, Criminal Justice Initiatives, Seattle Mental Health; King County Executive Ron Sims; and Direct Service-Victor Vander Beng Hui Loo, Washington Asian Pacific Islander Families Against Substance Abuse.

to-face evaluations in 2004 and completed 1,883 initial crisis outreaches, an increase of 14% compared to 2003.

- ▶ A 24-hour mental health telephone response service is available 365 days of the year to help residents in crisis, provided by the Crisis Clinic through a contract with MHCADSD. The Crisis Clinic responded to 84,661 calls requesting mental health assistance. The 24-hour line helps with crisis counseling, scheduling of next-day appointments, and referrals to community services.
- ▶ Expanded Community Services Program brought more than 30 long-term residents from Western State Hospital back to the community – saving an estimated \$2 million to date by providing community care, rather than psychiatric hospitalization.
- ▶ Children and Families in Common, a five-year federal

grant helping to build and strengthen the children's mental health system, received regional and national recognitions at national meetings and conferences in 2004, particularly for its Project Team approach to serving high-needs youth and for the Health 'N Action youth involvement project. The grant ends in 2005.

Substance abuse services provided by community-based agencies include outpatient treatment (including opiate substitution); residential treatment services; employment and vocational assistance; and housing assistance. King County employees at the King County Assessment Center are responsible for conducting financial eligibility and needs assessments for state-funded treatment services. County staff also drive the Emergency Services Patrol van and provide transport to the county's Dutch Shisler Sobering Support Center.

- ▶ More than 11,850 people received substance abuse services in 2004.
- ▶ Alcohol and Drug 24-Hour Help Line fielded 12,078 calls for assistance with substance abuse problems. Funded by MHCADSD to help people in crisis, the Help Line provided crisis response, information and referral to treatment. About 18% of calls were for teens and children; 79% concerned adults (ages 20-60); and 3% were about helping older adults.
- ▶ Emergency Services Patrol (ESP) helps public inebriates, many of whom are chronic clients, with 24-hour transportation and triage. ESP provided 17,836 transports in 2004.
- ▶ Dutch Shisler Sobering Support Center provides a safe place to recover from acute intoxication due to alcohol or drugs. Many of the individuals served are chronic inebriates. The Shisler Center served 2,246 individuals in 2004, who had a total of 24,489 admissions to the Sobering Center.
- ▶ A new grant awarded to MHCADSD in 2004 will help to make treatment available to more people in King County. Access to Recovery, to begin implementation in 2005, will open up more treatment slots, and provide recovery support services such as housing, mental health, transportation and employment training.

Criminal Justice Continuum of Care Initiative

Programs and services targeted to assist people in the criminal justice system with mental health and/or substance abuse needs make up the Criminal Justice Continuum of Care Initiative. The goal is to provide services that are coordinated, efficient and effective and reduce the rate of re-offense and jail time. Some services begin pre-incarceration and some continue through post-release in community-based services. Most of the programs began in 2003, with some becoming operational in 2004. Project components include the following:

Children and Families In Common provided family support and training during 2004.

Integrated co-occurring disorder treatment – Over 100 clients received integrated mental health and substance abuse services from a single provider so that both needs are equally addressed.

Community Linkages via Criminal Justice Liaisons—Three liaisons work with the King County Jail and the Community Center for Alternative Programs (CCAP) to engage, refer, and link eligible offenders to post-release treatment and support services. Combined, the liaisons made nearly 1,680 referrals.

Enhanced Screening and Assessment in the Jail—Jail Health Services and MHCADSD staff assist the Community Corrections Division's Intake Services Unit in a process to determine any treatment needs.

Assistance in Applying for Publicly Funded Benefits—Staff help clients in the jail enroll in the state's Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support Act (ADATSA) program, federal Medicaid or other financial services and benefits. Together they helped with over 370 applications.

Methadone Dosing and Voucher Services in the Jail—Methadone dosing for opiate-dependent inmates takes place in the King County Jail. Over 240 voucher recipients successfully entered treatment.

Mental Health Voucher Program—Vouchers for mental health treatment are provided to offenders referred from jail that are not currently receiving Medicaid benefits. Over 60 voucher recipients successfully entered treatment in 2004.

Housing Voucher and Case Management Program—Dedicated housing options are available for eligible inmates, including housing search, case management and a variety of stabilization services to help clients who are homeless, chemically dependent and/or mentally ill. Nearly 275 people were referred to housing vouchers in 2004.

Intensive Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment at CCAP—Intensive outpatient treatment services are available to eligible clients who are court-ordered to CCAP by King County District or Superior Courts. Over 50 clients were admitted to the treatment program.

Project Outcomes Evaluation—The first evaluation will be published in summer 2005 to determine to what extent the programs have had a positive impact on lowering re-arrest rates and have reduced criminal justice system costs. Some revisions to those programs is possible based on those outcomes.



Office of the Public Defender

All citizens of the United States have a constitutional right to legal representation when accused of a crime or faced with the loss of personal liberty, regardless of their ability to pay for those services. Washington state law affirms that right. The agency in King County designated as responsible for ensuring access to legal counsel for people with little or no income is the Office of the Public Defender (OPD).

King County OPD is one of the largest public defense agencies in the nation. It provides indigent defense services for all felonies and civil commitments in King County; legal representation for parents involved in dependency proceedings and for youth offenders; for all misdemeanors in unincorporated King County; and some misdemeanors in those cities under contract to OPD.

Financial eligibility screening is conducted by OPD staff six days a week at nine locations throughout King County. They screen about 40,000 cases per year and about 90 percent qualify for public defense services. Individuals eligible for services are assigned by OPD to a public defense agency or, in some cases, to an attorney on the OPD Assigned Counsel Panel. The county contracts with four local non-profit law firms who provide the majority of the county's public defense legal services: Associated Counsel for the Accused, Northwest Defenders Association, Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons, and The Defender Association.

The Public Defender's office administers agency and assigned counsel contracts and monitors the distribution of cases and caseloads, as well as providing attorneys for arraignment calendars, mental health and drug courts, and the specialty area of sexual predator cases. In 2004, OPD adopted workload and basic performance standards for attorneys, the first to do so in the State of Washington. Staff also monitors the quality of representation and manages a system to resolve any client complaints. In

addition, OPD manages the Expert Services Program, which includes psychiatric or psychological evaluations, evidence examination, private investigation, forensic evaluations, and expert court testimony as necessary to provide a competent defense – all as approved by the Public Defender on a case-by-case basis.

The following table shows the distribution of caseload among civil and criminal cases. The largest number of cases, and typically the most expensive to defend, are felonies.

2004 OPD Caseload Distribution

Felonies	10,365
Seattle Municipal Court	6,887
Dependency	6,587
King County Misdemeanor	6,513
Juvenile Offender	5,384
Civil Commitment - Mental Illness	2,297
Civil Contempt	2,002
Becca At-Risk Youth Petitions	830
Drug Diversion	477
Civil Commitment - Alcohol	62
TOTAL	41,404

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